

Call for Papers

Risk and the Life Course – Workshop

21st-22nd of July 2011

The University of Melbourne

School of Social and Political Sciences

The notion of emerging new risks and how to avoid or manage them has become central to modern societies and contemporary identity. Australian researchers have been at the forefront of exploring how a 'risk society' is reshaping the life course – for example suggesting the transition between youth and adulthood has been reshaped. This two day workshop at the University of Melbourne will explore how new divisions and uncertainties, and a discourse focused on risk and individualised risk management, are reshaping the biography and the life course.

Extended abstracts of up to one A4 page are requested for papers that explore changes in life course regimes, biographical expectations, and sociological theories of risk and social change. Papers drawing on empirical research are welcome, as are papers making a conceptual or theoretical contribution.

Potential topics include:

- Points of convergence and divergence in the multiple approaches to conceptualising the impact of social change on the biography.
- The extent to which theories about the opening up of the life-course to new risks and uncertainties but also new possibilities (such as the work of Beck and Giddens) accurately reflect contemporary Australia.
- Explorations of how people negotiate critical turning points or contradictory demands in their biography, personally, with significant others and drawing on institutional resources.

Please send abstracts to A/Prof. Jens Zinn (jzinn@unimelb.edu.au) by the 1st of June.

Registration for the workshop will cost \$20 (including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on both days). The workshop will be free for graduate students. Five small travel grants of \$100 will also be available to PhD students from outside Melbourne to support their attendance at the workshop.

The workshop convenors are aiming to develop a proposal for book or journal special issue on 'risk and the changing life course' (at least in an A rated journal) featuring contributions to the workshop.

This event is jointly convened by Dan Woodman and Jens Zinn on behalf of the [Sociology of Youth](#) and [Risk Societies](#) Thematic Groups of The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) and the [Risk, Social Inclusion and the Life Course](#) Research Group at the University of Melbourne. The workshop is supported by a Thematic Group Support Scheme Grant from TASA and a Sociology Small Grant from the University of Melbourne.